

Ong: Repair first and get the funds later

The Star 8/11/2007

PETALING JAYA: Local authorities should not wait to get allocations first before starting repair works in view of the urgency after the floods, said Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting.

"They can start the repair works immediately. The money will be channelled to them," he said, adding that he believed the local authorities had already started work on the restoration and repairs.

He said he had instructed local authorities to assess damages and losses including for restoration work on

roads and other infrastructures.

"The Government will give them allocations to carry out the restoration and repair works," he added.

Ong said they had been asked to estimate the actual losses, adding that the ministry would look into estimating the allocations.

"We want it to be done as soon as possible."

Ong was commenting yesterday on the repair work and clean-up activities following the floods in various states.

Earlier, he witnessed the

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DATUK SERI ONG KA TING

Xiang Lian Youth Association of Malaysia central committee members' swearing-in ceremony yesterday.

On the toll protest, Ong,

who is MCA president, said the party had done its job by collecting feedback from the people and presenting it to the Cabinet.

"We have reflected the

wishes of the people to the Cabinet and the Cabinet has taken note of it," he said.

Asked about Pandan MP Datuk Ong Tee Keat's recent disclosure of the allocation spending in his constituency, Ong said he respected Tee Keat's way of showing transparency.

"But other MPs may have their own practices too," he noted.

In his website Tee Keat disclosed the breakdown of the expenses and allocation he sought and obtained for his constituency from the Selangor state government's Economic Planning Unit.